

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 /047 W
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R 030607Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8410

CONFIDENTIAL TANANARIVE 1407

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: ACCESS TO NASA STATION

1. DURING PAST FEW WEEKS, EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER VISITED NASA STATION FOUR TIMES AT REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ORDER TO RESTORE TEMPORARILY-INTERRUPTED WATER SUPPLY TO NEARBY VILLAGE OFIMERINTSIATOSIKA, WHICH DRAWS ITS WATER FROM SYSTEM INSTALLED BY NASA WHEN STATION WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED. ADMIN OFFICER WAS ACCCOMPANIED ON EACH OCCASION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF GENDARMERIE, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, AND MALAGASY WATER AND ELECTRICITY COMPANY, AS WELL AS BY SEVERAL MALAGASY EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY WHO ASSISTED WITH REPAIRS. EACH TIME, REPAIR WAS DELAYED BECAUSE KEYS TO WATER SYSTEM ARE LOCATED IN NASA BUILDING AND, BECAUSE OF UNCERTAIN STATUS OF THE STATION AND SENSITIVITIES WITHIN THE GDRM, ACCESS TO NASA BUILDING HAD TO GO THROUGH CONSIDERABLE RED TAPE. ALTHOUGH REQUESTS BY GDRM HAVE RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF EMBASSY WORKING TIME, WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUR GOOD WILL AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH GDRM AUTHORITIES.

2. ON AUGUST 31 EMBASSY RECEIVED MFA NOTE REQUESTING THAT WE PROVIDE WATER COMPANY WITH KEYS TO THE WATER SYSTEM. WE COULD DO SO BY REQUESTING ACCESS TO NASA BUILDING AND (A) GIVE GDRM KEYS OUTRIGHT OR (B) MAKE COPIES OF KEYS FOR WATER COMPANY WHILE RETAINING SET FOR OURSELVES, THUS NOT ABANDONING PRINCIPLE THAT ALL FACILITIES AT THE STATION

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STILL BELONG TO THE USG.

3. TWICE SINCE NASA STATION WAS CLOSED IN JULY 1975, WE HAVE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED GDRM PERMISSION TO ENTER STATION IN ORDER TO RETRIEVE SPECIFIC ITEMS WHICH WERE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF NASA EMPLOYEES. ON AUGUST 27 WE SENT NOTE TO MFA REQUESTING ACCESS TO THE STATION IN ORDER TO RETRIEVE A LARGE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS, INCLUDING PERSONAL EFFECTS, AIR MADAGASCAR BILLS WHICH ARE STILL UNPAID, AMERICAN FLAG, NUMEROUS TOOLS AND SUPPLIES FOR AMERICAN VEHICLES WHICH COULD BE USED FOR EMBASSY VEHICLES, ALL VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS FOR NASA VEHICLES NOW LOCATED OFF THE STATION (IN ORDER TO SELL VEHICLES), AND VARIOUS MEDICAL AND OFFICE SUPPLIES WHICH WE COULD ALSO PUT TO GOOD USE. MFA DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS HAS ASSURED US THAT HE WILL EXPEDITE GDRM'S, I.E. SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S, APPROVAL OF OUR REQUEST, AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY PROBLEM.

4. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, EMBASSY PLANS TO PROVIDE GDRM WITH DUPLICATE KEYS, WHICH WEWOULD SEND OVER WITH NOTE REAFFIRMING PRINCIPLE THAT FACILITIES ON BASE AND EQUIPMENT STILL BELONG TO USG AND THAT USG OFFICIALS SHOULD BE PRESENT IF MALAGASY OFFICIALS FIND IT NECESSARY TO OPEN ANY NASA BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO SERVICE WATER SYSTEM. HOWEVER, AS QUID PRO QUO, WE DO NOT PLAN TO PROVIDE KEYS UNLESS GDRM ACCEDES TO OUR REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO STATION TO RECOVER ITEMS MENTIONED ABOVE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, POLICIES, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANANA01407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760334-0969
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760991/aaaaczs.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCESS TO NASA STATION
TAGS: EFIN, TZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006